

TOWN OF ARLINGTON

Recreation Department
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation



Recreation Department

PARK COMMISSIONERS

Shirley Canniff
Leslie Mayer
Jen Rothenberg
Phil Lasker
Scott Walker
Josh Fenollosa - Associate
Sarah Carrier- Associate

MEETING NOTICE

The Park and Recreation Commission
Tuesday, May 14, 2024
7:00 PM – Arlington Community Center
Board of Health Meeting Room, 2nd Floor

AGENDA

- 1) Mini-Pitch Working Group Report
- 2) Special Event Request
 - a) Friends of Magnolia Annual Concerts – 6/12, 6/19, 6/26, 7/10, 7/17. 7/17, 7/24, 7/31, 8/7
- 3) Comments and Items for Future Meetings:
 - a) Capital Plan Review – May 28, 2024
 - b) Menotomy Park Design Review
 - c) Trash
- 4) Approval of Minutes – 4/23/2024
- 5) Correspondence Received: Dean Carman (Field Scheduling AHS)
- 6) New Business
 - a) Open Space Committee Update – Shirley Canniff
- 7) Public Comment



PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION

Joseph Connelly
Director of Recreation

M E M O

To: Park and Recreation Commission
From: Joseph Connelly, Director of Parks and Recreation
Date: 5/6/2024
Subject: Mini Pitch Working Group Report

The following is a summary and recommendation from the Mini-Pitch working group.

Working Group Members:

Scott Walker – Park Commission

Phil Lasker – Park Commission

Matt Curran – Recreation Program Supervisor

Joe Connelly – Director of Recreation

Chris Connolly – Arlington Soccer Club

Patsy O'Brien – Arlington Soccer Club & Arlington Basketball Club

Josh Smith – Arlington Basketball Club

Jen & Dan Stine – Arlington Residents

Location Assessment:

The working group used the Activitas Needs Assessment Report to evaluate potential Sites. The following was the initial recommendations from all members:

Courts/Member	Buzzell	Summer Street	North Union	Parallel	Florence	Spy pond
Matt	1	2	3	0	0	0
Joe	1	2	3	0	0	0
Chris	1	3	2	0	0	0
Jen & Dan Stine	2	1	0	3	0	0
Phil	3	1	0	0	2	0
Scott	3	0	1	0	0	2
Josh	1	3	2	0	0	0
Patsy	1	3	2	0	0	0
Rankings						
# 1 Ranks	5	2	1	0	0	0
#2 Ranks	1	2	3	0	1	1
#3 Ranks	2	3	2	1	0	0
Not Ranked	0	1	2	7	7	7

1

After the initial site evaluation the working group zoned in on three sites for further consideration. These sites included Buzzell Field, Summer Street Courts, and North Union Field. A site visit was conducted on April 29th.

The following criteria were used for assessment. 4 = Excellent 3 = Good 2 = Fair 1 = Poor

- Accessibility for youth (Centrally Located)

Excellent – On Bike Path, Centrally Located, Easy Parking

Good – Two of the three above

Fair – One of the three above

Poor – None

- Lighting Potential

Excellent – Facility currently has lights

Good – Lights can be added easily

Fair – Lights may be added but need a public process

Poor – Lights cannot be added

- Accessibility ADA

Excellent – Accessible path, parking, and site amenities

Good – two of the three above

Fair – one of the three above

Poor – none of the three above

- Visibility & Supervision

Excellent – Direct sight lines from street and public facilities

Good – Sight lines are indirect

Fair – Difficult to view from public way

Poor – No sight lines/remote

- Other Site Amenities

Excellent – Near other recreational uses (basketball/soccer), benches/picnic, water source

Good – Two of the three above

Fair – One of the three above

Poor – None

- Abutter Impact

Excellent – No additional impact from current use

Good – Little additional impact from current use

Fair – Impact from current use

Poor – Major impact from current use

- Project Ease of Approval & Cost Efficiency

Excellent – No major changes of use, infrastructure in place, no foreseen abutter resistance

Good – Two of the three above

Fair - One of the three above

Poor – None

- Parking

Excellent – Existing parking lot adjacent to site

Good – Adjacent on street parking

Fair – Parking nearby

Poor – No parking in the area

Evaluation Results:

Evaluation Criteria		Buzzell	Summer Street	North Union
Accessibility for Youth		4	4	2
Lighting Potential		4	4	2
Accessibility ADA		4	4	4
Visibility & Supervision		4	4	3
Abutter Impact		4	4	2
Other Site Amenities		4	4	4
Project Approval & Cost Efficiency		2	4	2
Parking		2	4	3
Totals		28	32	22

Based on our evaluation the existing Summer Street Basketball Courts is the recommended sites. Below are some of the highlighted benefits of the Summer Street site:

- No change of use. The court would basically be the same as it is now except with perimeter fencing with goals build into the fencing.
- Proximity to the bike path provides easy accessibility to youth as well as proximity to high school and existing on site recreational opportunities.
- Existing lights. Both the basketball courts and adjacent fields have lights so there is no new neighbor impact.
- High visibility from Summer Street and its proximity to the Ed Burns Arena.
- Parking is available on Ryder Street and at the Ed Burns Arena.
- Due to the court being existing and the lighting infrastructure already being in place the cost of this project would be significantly less than the other sites.

The working group believes that since there is no change of use, the lights are existing, and the project basically is putting a fence around an existing basketball court that there is no need a full public engagement process. The working group recommends a publicly posted conversation with the Park Commission if this project was to become a funded reality.

Naming Rights & Sponsorship Opportunities

Naming Rights

Based on discussions with Town Counsel it was made very clear that naming rights could not be linked to a donation. If a donor wanted to gift money to a project that would be appreciated but it could not be dependent on naming rights of any part of the project. Naming rights would need to follow a separate process through the Select Board and Public Memorials Committee.

Sponsorship Opportunities

At this time what is and is not permissible for sponsorship acknowledgement/advertising in an open space zone is still a little unclear. We have asked both the Planning Department and Zoning Department for clarification. At this time we recommend no detailed commitments as to sponsorship acknowledgment other than what is determined to be permissible by Town Bylaw.

General Recommendations

The working group's recommendations would be to move forward with planning for a Mini-Pitch System at the Summer Street site. Below are recommended action items:

1. The Park Commission approves the project in concept at the Summer Street location.
2. The Park Commission uses FY25 Feasibility Study money to develop the necessary plans and cost estimates for the project. This includes the Mini-Pitch system, any necessary lighting upgrades, and accessibility upgrades.
3. Upon receiving a final cost estimate, Recreation will work with both Arlington Soccer Club and Arlington Basketball Club to secure private funds for the project.
4. Once funding is secured and the final plans are developed, the working group will report back to the Park Commission for a final approval.

TOWN OF ARLINGTON



PARK COMMISSIONERS
 Shirley Canniff
 Leslie Mayer
 Jen Rothenberg
 Scott Walker
 Phil Lasker
 Sara Carrier - Associate

Recreation Department

SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST

**For all gatherings over 50 people and private/corporate events*

Today's Date: 05/06/2024 (Requests must be made 1 month in advance)

Contact Name: Julia Twarog (Friends of Magnolia Park)

Phone (C): 617-874-6550

Email Address: friends.of.magnolia.park@gmail.com

Home Address: 4 Colonial Drive, Arlington MA 02474

Purpose: Magnolia Park Summer Music Series

Estimated Attendance: 120

Day: Wednesday

Date: June 12, 2024

Set up Time: 5:00pm

Start Time: 6:00pm

End Time: 8:00pm

Break Down: 8:30pm

Site Requested: Magnolia Park

Area at Site Requested: Picnic Area

Activities: Presentation of an informal concert, open to all who wish to attend.

We anticipate that audience members will bring their own picnics, but no food will be provided by the organizers.

Will food be on site? Yes ☒ No ☐ Please list all food: We will not be providing food, but audience members may bring their own picnics

Will you be promoting this event via social media? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Fees:

Category	Group	Rate
Special Event	Arlington Resident/Organization	\$25/hr
Special Event	Non Arlington Resident/ Organizations	\$50/hr

Additional Requirements/Fees:

- Site is permitted as is. Groups are responsible for cleanup of the site including trash. If your event needs support from Public Works additional fees will be required and billed per hour (minimum 4 hrs).
- For groups over 150 people a police detail may be required, if your group is required to get a police detail you must set this up with the department before you will receive a permit.
- If you will be having prepared food at your event you must contact the Board of Health to get the appropriate food permit.

☐ By signing below I acknowledge and accept the rules and regulations (back) responsibilities for this permit and I agree to release, indemnify, and hold harmless the Town of Arlington from and against any and all claims, demands, losses, damages, defense costs, or liability of any kind which may arise out of, or is in any manner connected with, the above-described activity.

Julia Twarog
 (Signature of Responsible Party)

May 6, 2024
 (Date)

Revised 4.21.2021



Recreation Department

SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST

**For all gatherings over 50 people and private/corporate events*

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Contact Name: Julia Twarog (Friends of Magnolia Park)

Phone (C): 617-874-6550

Email Address: friends.of.magnolia.park@gmail.com

Home Address: 4 Colonial Drive, Arlington MA 02474

Purpose: Magnolia Park Summer Music Series

Estimated Attendance: 120

Day: Wednesday

Date: June 19, 2024

Set up Time: 5:00pm

Start Time: 6:00pm

End Time: 8:00pm

Break Down: 8:30pm

Site Requested: Magnolia Park

Area at Site Requested: Picnic Area

Activities: Presentation of an informal concert, open to all who wish to attend.

We anticipate that audience members will bring their own picnics, but no food will be provided by the organizers.

Will food be on site? Yes ☒ No ☐ Please list all food: We will not be providing food, but audience members may bring their own picnics

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(Date)

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Contact Name: Julia Twarog (Friends of Magnolia Park)

Phone (C): 617-874-6550

Email Address: friends.of.magnolia.park@gmail.com

Home Address: 4 Colonial Drive, Arlington MA 02474

Purpose: Magnolia Park Summer Music Series

Estimated Attendance: 120

Day: Wednesday

Date: June 26, 2024

Set up Time: 5:00pm

Start Time: 6:00pm

End Time: 8:00pm

Break Down: 8:30pm

Site Requested: Magnolia Park

Area at Site Requested: Picnic Area

Activities: Presentation of an informal concert, open to all who wish to attend.

We anticipate that audience members will bring their own picnics, but no food will be provided by the organizers.

Will food be on site? Yes ☒ No ☐ Please list all food: We will not be providing food, but audience members may bring their own picnics

Will you be promoting this event via social media? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Fees:

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 (Date)

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SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST

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Today's Date: 05/06/2024 (Requests must be made 1 month in advance)

Contact Name: Julia Twarog (Friends of Magnolia Park)

Phone (C): 617-874-6550

Email Address: friends.of.magnolia.park@gmail.com

Home Address: 4 Colonial Drive, Arlington MA 02474

Purpose: Magnolia Park Summer Music Series

Estimated Attendance: 120

Day: Wednesday

Date: July 10, 2024

Set up Time: 5:00pm

Start Time: 6:00pm

End Time: 8:00pm

Break Down: 8:30pm

Site Requested: Magnolia Park

Area at Site Requested: Picnic Area

Activities: Presentation of an informal concert, open to all who wish to attend.

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Will food be on site? Yes ☒ No ☐ Please list all food: We will not be providing food, but audience members may bring their own picnics

Will you be promoting this event via social media? ☒ Yes ☐ No

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 (Date)

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Phone (C): 617-874-6550

Email Address: friends.of.magnolia.park@gmail.com

Home Address: 4 Colonial Drive, Arlington MA 02474

Purpose: Magnolia Park Summer Music Series

Estimated Attendance: 120

Day: Wednesday

Date: July 17, 2024

Set up Time: 5:00pm

Start Time: 6:00pm

End Time: 8:00pm

Break Down: 8:30pm

Site Requested: Magnolia Park

Area at Site Requested: Picnic Area

Activities: Presentation of an informal concert, open to all who wish to attend.

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Will you be promoting this event via social media? ☒ Yes ☐ No

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 (Date)

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Contact Name: Julia Twarog (Friends of Magnolia Park)

Phone (C): 617-874-6550

Email Address: friends.of.magnolia.park@gmail.com

Home Address: 4 Colonial Drive, Arlington MA 02474

Purpose: Magnolia Park Summer Music Series

Estimated Attendance: 120

Day: Wednesday

Date: July 24, 2024

Set up Time: 5:00pm

Start Time: 6:00pm

End Time: 8:00pm

Break Down: 8:30pm

Site Requested: Magnolia Park

Area at Site Requested: Picnic Area

Activities: Presentation of an informal concert, open to all who wish to attend.

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Will food be on site? Yes ☒ No ☐ Please list all food: We will not be providing food, but audience members may bring their own picnics

Will you be promoting this event via social media? ☒ Yes ☐ No

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 (Date)

Revised 4.21.2021

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Contact Name: Julia Twarog (Friends of Magnolia Park)

Phone (C): 617-874-6550

Email Address: friends.of.magnolia.park@gmail.com

Home Address: 4 Colonial Drive, Arlington MA 02474

Purpose: Magnolia Park Summer Music Series

Estimated Attendance: 120

Day: Wednesday

Date: July 31, 2024

Set up Time: 5:00pm

Start Time: 6:00pm

End Time: 8:00pm

Break Down: 8:30pm

Site Requested: Magnolia Park

Area at Site Requested: Picnic Area

Activities: Presentation of an informal concert, open to all who wish to attend.

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 (Date)

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Contact Name: Julia Twarog (Friends of Magnolia Park)

Phone (C): 617-874-6550

Email Address: friends.of.magnolia.park@gmail.com

Home Address: 4 Colonial Drive, Arlington MA 02474

Purpose: Magnolia Park Summer Music Series

Estimated Attendance: 120

Day: Wednesday

Date: August 7, 2024

Set up Time: 5:00pm

Start Time: 6:00pm

End Time: 8:00pm

Break Down: 8:30pm

Site Requested: Magnolia Park

Area at Site Requested: Picnic Area

Activities: Presentation of an informal concert, open to all who wish to attend.

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Julia Twarog
 (Signature of Responsible Party)

May 6, 2024
 (Date)

Revised 4.21.2021

ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINTUES

April 23, 2024

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order in the main meeting room at the Community Center on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 7:05pm.

Commission Members: Scott Walker, Phil Lasker, Jen Rothenberg, Leslie Mayer, Shirley Canniff, Sarah Carrier and Josh Fenollosa. Recreation Director Joe Connelly was also present.

Anticipated Speakers: Ian Ramey and Emily Hunt – Copley Wolff, Josh Millonig – Weston & Sampson

Members of the Public: Sue Doctrow, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Elaine Crowder, Jean Rosenberg, Asia Kepka, Brian McBride, Rajon Ramchandani, Liz Reisberg

Preliminary Matter: Scott Walker, Park & Recreation Commission Chair, took formal attendance and welcomed anticipated speakers and members of the public to the Recreation Commission meeting.

Parallel Park Design Final Review – Copley Wolff

Ian Ramey, Copley Wolff – Attended two public input meetings and weekly design team meetings. He also shared that there was an excellent public turn out at Town Day and online meetings.

Emily Hunt – Narrated the presentation of the preferred concept. She also stated that the design is available online on the Arlington town website. The final design includes minor changes from the preferred concept after receiving community feedback. Copley Wolff took into consideration requests to keep several elements that were important and well-loved by the neighborhood users. The design includes a picnic area, age-appropriate play areas for ages 2-5 and 5-12, a fenced dog area, basketball court and a bike loop. Ms. Hunt also noted that the design preserves existing trees and that the amenities will match those in other Arlington parks. Following a fence audit the following was also recommended – a 10' fence between the dog area and basketball court, a new fence around the dog area (corner of Medford Street and Mystic Valley Parkway) and a new fence around the play area. The total bid came in at \$685K.

Mr. Connelly – Budget is \$600K. Representative Sean Garballey has submitted a \$150K request for state funding.

The Commission discussed the following –

- Location of the separate double entrance near the dog area and basketball court in relation to the installation of the bike racks and ease of access.
- Prioritization of bid/alts
 - Dog Area Upgrades
 - Perimeter Fencing
 - Full Color Sealcoat (basketball court) – Mr. Lasker noted that the cost estimate was high.
 - Site Amenities including youth hoop, additional plantings
 - Water Fountain
- Water fountains. Mr. Connelly – Fountains will not be added at this time. Existing fountains at other Town locations are part of a pilot program.
- Preservation of existing trees. Trees/planters to be installed inside dog area to replace dying trees (confirmed by tree warden).
- PIP and engineered wood fiber combination surfacing was determined to be more cost-effective.
- ADA accessibility – pathways, entrances, picnic area surface, and dog area path. Ms. Mayer – There have been accessibility issues at Thorndike Dog Park where wheelchairs have gotten stuck. Ms. Rothenberg – Picnic area surfacing needs to be fully accessible. Copley Wolff stated that the picnic area would be concrete.

- Swing elements for each play zone (2-5 yo, 5-12 yo).

Mr. Connelly – The dog area is not a designated dog park but will be used for off-leash activities.

Ms. Canniff – Concern about the sturdiness of the T-bar style toddler swings and potential inappropriate and destructive use by older children. Copley Wolff – Very sturdy design that is both space and cost effective.

Ms. Carrier – Noted the positioning of the bike racks in relation to the double gated entrance near the dog area and basketball court. She also pointed out that the path inside the dog park does not appear to be straight. Copley Wolff will review.

Mr. Walker – With increased use will come more bikes. Suggested two separate gates to prevent congestion with bikes and dogs in the double gated entrance. Mr. Connelly – Bike racks will be purchased but not installed immediately. There is time to discuss placement.

Ms. Mayer – Noted the positives of having water/hose access in dog area, trash receptacle placement to ensure DPW pickups.

Ms. Mayer motioned to accept the design along with the modifications discussed, accept the add/alt prioritization determined by the Commission with the condition that more discussion and changes may be made if additional funding is secured. Seconded by Mr. Lasker. Approved 5-0.

Hills Hill Mountain Biking Area Design Review – Weston & Sampson

Josh Millonig of Weston & Sampson presented the preferred design plan.

- Site review of all trees conducted and identified on the design.
- Existing trail networks will require some maintenance. Make-shift jumps will be removed.
- Open meadow area – no changes.
- Create a youth track (toddler scooters etc) on the existing concrete area between Buck and the soccer field. Mr. Connelly – Pending budget.
- Main track to be located closer to Summer Street. Mr. Fenollosa – Less noise impact being near a busy street.
- Three element/activities along the track. There will be no seating along the track to prevent “hang-out areas” in the woods. Tracks will be 4-6’ wide and will work within the existing trees.
- An informal seating area between the track and meadow area is possible. Mr. Connelly – Has been discussed by the design team as it will create a natural barrier between the paths and the meadow.

Mr. Connelly – Received multiple correspondence requesting signage designating existing paths for walking only and separate paths for bike use. All trails in Arlington are “multi-use”. The Commission will review concerns as needed but no action will be taken at this time.

Ms. Rothenberg – Reminded the attendees that, per open meeting by-laws, meetings can not be recorded without a formal request approved and signed prior to the meeting.

Mr. Lasker – Feedback from the Town’s youth community is positive and exciting. Commended Henry Fenollosa for helping to bring his 2019 project presentation to life in a way that preserves existing features and elements.

Ms. Mayer – Agreed with Mr. Lasker, noting that the space will provide a sense of community for kids/bikers and a comfortable gathering place for those with similar interests.

Ms. Rothenberg – Project allows for the perfect use of the existing, limited terrain. The project itself has already created a sense of community for all ages during clean-up activities and community input/planning discussions.

Ms. Canniff – Expressed gratitude for a population that was so deeply affected by Covid isolation and indoor activity limitations.

Mr. Walker – Thanked the public, the working group, Mr. McBride and Henry Fenollosa for their assistance in bringing the project together. Commended everyone for honoring the property deed to the youth of Arlington.

Mr. McBride – Supports the pump track location with the compromise of leaving the existing trees. Requested a central spine walkway to provide a safe walking space. Mr. Connelly – Walking path is not a design element but can be discussed in the future.

Mr. Lasker motioned to approve the design as presented, seconded by Ms. Canniff. Approved 5-0.

Asis Kepka – Inquired about access roads. Mr. Connelly – Necessary for construction and maintenance access.

Sure Doctrow, CPAC member – Speaking on behalf of herself congratulated the team and noted that she has always supported the project. She inquired if the pump track was to be paved and the CPAC approval conditions regarding the pump track location in the woods. Mr. Connelly – CPAC condition was that the Commission needed to present two design options if the pump track was going to be located in the woods. Ms. Doctrow stated that there will be a special CPA meeting to discuss the pump track.

Mr. Connelly – Parking and traffic issues will be addressed by TAC as they develop.

Rajon Ramchandani – Requested that the Commission consider removing bike access to the trail along Summer/Washington Street to reduce noise near the abutters. Mr. Connelly – Make-shift jumps are being removed. The path is an existing path and will not be removed.

Ms. Crowder – Noted that a newer path was created last winter and inquired about it being removed. Mr. Connelly will look at the path with the contractor.

Bench Donation Request – Spy Pond Park, Inna Bezborodnikova

The Commission discussed the plaque dedication wording and location requests. It was determined that the bench will be installed at a Spy Pond location.

Comments and Items for Future Meetings

- **Capital Plan Review** – May meeting
- **Menotomy Park Design Review** – End of May after survey work.
- **Mini-Pitch Working Group Update** - Working group meeting Monday will include representatives from basketball groups, soccer groups and the general public along with Mr. Lasker and Mr. Walker.

Ms. Canniff requested to add a discussion to address a better method to dispose of dog waste. There has been an increasing problem with smell, improper disposal, trash overflow and rats.

Approval of Minutes – Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the minutes from April 9, 2024, as amended, seconded by Ms. Mayer. Approved 4-0.

Correspondence Received

Mr. Connelly forwarded correspondence he has received to the Commission regarding Hills Hill.

New Business

- **Artificial Turf Committee Update** Mr. Connelly - Final report has been completed and Natasha Wadyn is working on the Town Meeting presentation. Mr. Lasker – EPA joint study with CPC and CPSC has declared crumb rubber to be safe. Mr. Connelly noted that approval from higher agencies will be very valuable.
- **Open Space Committee** Ms. Canniff – Committee is very active with Ecofest. No additional updates.

Public Comment

Liz Reisberg A– Testing at Hills Pond – algae bloom due to phosphates. Would like to discuss educational opportunities to share with abutters about the use of fertilizers that are contributing to the algae bloom. Ms. Mayer – In the past this issue was brought up with Vision 20/20. Mr. Connelly will reach out to the aquatics management group. Ms. Canniff recommended sending out an email blast to the FOMRP members and neighbors.

Ms. Rothenberg – Inquired about removing the Save Hills Hill committee signs. Mr. Connelly – Can only remove signs on public property.

Ms. Canniff – Noted the increase in Bark for Life signs around town. Ms. Rothenberg noticed that the signs advertise “vendors”. Mr. Connelly will check in with the group to remind them that for-profit vendors cannot sell on town property. Ms. Mayer reminded the group that sales in support of a 501(c)3 is permitted.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn at 9:20pm, seconded by Ms. Canniff. Approved 5-0.

The Arlington Park & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes were respectfully submitted by Deanna Stacchi.

Re: Outdoor Field Scheduling / Permitting Beginning in August 2025

Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>

Mon 5/6/2024 12:41 PM

To: dean.carman@verizon.net <dean.carman@verizon.net>; Michael Rademacher <MRademacher@town.arlington.ma.us>
Cc: Ben Dobbs <bdobbs23@gmail.com>; Henry Brush <henrybrush1@gmail.com>; Phil Lasker <phil_lasker@yahoo.com>; Scott Walker <swalker17@hotmail.com>; Leslie Mayer <lmayer@msn.com>; Jen Rothenberg <jenjenroth@gmail.com>; Shirley Canniff <scanniff@town.arlington.ma.us>; josh@brownfenollosa.com <josh@brownfenollosa.com>; saracarrier@gmail.com <saracarrier@gmail.com>; Deanna Stacchi <stacchi13@hotmail.com>

Hi Dean,

This is a great idea. Also, another item to consider is that currently in the capital improvement budget in FY 26 is \$85,000 for a Field Master plan. I believe this process will be critical in setting the Commission's future capital improvement schedule and determining what the actual field needs are in Arlington. This is something that Henry Brush has been asking us to do for a long time.

This master planning process, along with the high school fields coming back on line after five years, will surely set Arlington's field scheduling needs up for future success.

Thanks,

Joseph Connelly, M.Ed.
Director of Recreation
Town of Arlington
781-316-3889
jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us

Public Records Notice

Please be advised that pursuant to G.L. c. 4 sec. 7(26) email correspondence to and from public employees is considered a public record. Only where the content of an email falls within one of the stated exemptions within the law may the Town withhold documents or information.

From: Dean Carman <dean.carman@verizon.net>**Sent:** Monday, May 6, 2024 12:13 PM**To:** Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>; Michael Rademacher <MRademacher@town.arlington.ma.us>**Cc:** Ben Dobbs <bdobbs23@gmail.com>; Scott Walker <Swalker@town.arlington.ma.us>; Shirley Canniff <scanniff@town.arlington.ma.us>; Leslie Mayer <lmayer@town.arlington.ma.us>; Jen Rothenberg <jrothenberg@town.arlington.ma.us>; plasker@town.arlington.ma.us <plasker@town.arlington.ma.us>; Henry Brush <henrybrush1@gmail.com>**Subject:** Outdoor Field Scheduling / Permitting Beginning in August 2025

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Good afternoon,

Please accept this email as correspondence sent to the Parks & Recreation Commission and Department of Publics Work.

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With the high school turf project scheduled for completion in approximately 15 months, it's my belief that we're approaching the turning point of when we can start to improve the quality of our grass fields. To begin improving our fields, I'm writing to suggest that now is the time for Parks and Recreation Commission, supported by DPW, to have a conversation with Arlington Public Schools about their (lack of) need for town fields beginning in August 2025 when they have **three full size turf fields with lights**.

Once their new fields are online, AHS needs to bring their outdoor sports back on campus, scheduling practices back to back in two hour flights beginning at 3:30, 5:30 and 7:30 (if needed). Doing this will take hundreds, if not thousands of usage hours off our grass fields, and hopefully allow us to create a plan to start resting them. While this back to back scheduling system may seem "odd" for fall and spring sports at AHS, it's normal for winter AHS sports like basketball, hockey and track, and AHS club activities like fall Ultimate Disc. It's also in-line with Arlington youth sports practices, most of which begin at 5PM and go until 7 or 7:30 PM.

Because this scheduling shift would mark a change from what AHS outdoor teams are familiar with, an early conversation seems appropriate. If AHS pushes back, I guess we need to have a community conversation on why we spent money on lights for the field project.

Thanks,

Dean

Dean Carman
29 Kilsythe Road
Arlington, MA 02476

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